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REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 14th February 1903.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

185. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Inspector Bepin Bihari Mitra of Noakhali was dismissed by the Inspector-General of Police on the recommendation of the Bengal Government, because it was found by the Noakhali Police Commission that he had made a statement regarding the Government Pleader which the latter denied. Bepin Bihari ineffectually appealed to the Bengal Government against the order of his dismissal, and next addressed an appeal to the Government of India, but the Bengal Government has declined to forward it.

The case of a dismissed Inspector of Police.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Feb. 1903.

The *Patrika* confesses that the action of the Bengal Government is not only unjust but cruel. A thorough investigation ought to have been made into the case for the sake at least of the appellant's 25 years meritorious service. It would seem as if the local Government was not quite sure of the justice of its own action, hence its unwillingness to lay the papers before the Supreme Government. Will Lord Curzon please note and send for the records of this case?

186. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that in addition to the Chaukidari Tax being, as it has repeatedly said, the cruellest tax in the world, the Police Commission

The Chaukidari Tax.

contemplates adding to the wrong of it by making the zamindars pay it not because they need the services of the chaukidar, but because they are well-to-do.

The zamindars have, however, been exempted from the payment of a police tax by the Regulation of 1797 and 1893, which the chaukidari tax practically is, so that the Police Commission's proposal is in violation of the provisions of the Permanent Settlement.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Feb. 1903.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

187. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* hearing that Mr. Handley, the Chief Judge of the Small Cause Court, Calcutta, will succeed Mr. Justice Hill when the latter goes on furlough, expresses the hope that the opportunity will be taken to appoint a Hindu Subordinate Judge to the Small Cause Court, where at present no Hindu Judge is to be found.

A Hindu Judge for the Small Cause Court, Calcutta.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Feb. 1903.

(d)—Education.

188. The *Indian Nation* does not approve of or join in the suggestion that the Lieutenant-Governor should be asked to invite the opinion of the Calcutta University on the Report of the University Commission. The University if under any Government is under the Government of India, and therefore, if any invitation has to be sought, it has to be sought from that Government. The real question, however, is should an invitation be sought from any quarter by or on behalf of a University? Probably the Government of India thinks that the opinion of any body of men is not worth having, unless it is mainly official and European.

The Calcutta University and the Report of the University Commission.

INDIAN NATION,
9th Feb. 1903.

189. The *Indian Nation* congratulates the Calcutta University on the re-appointment of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh as its Vice-Chancellor. It hopes that he will see his way to cleaning the Augean stables of that institution, which is full of abuses, and of jobbery of every form and kind, as, for instance, in the appointment of examiners, in the selection of Boards of Studies, in the selection of text-books, and in the election of representatives to the Syndicate. The *Nation* points out one anomaly which may turn out to be an abuse, viz., the practice of selecting text-books before they have been published or before they are available to the public. It raises the suspicion that the selection is a mere hole-in-corner affair determined more by canvassing than by consideration of the merits of a book.

The Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh.

INDIAN NATION,
9th Feb. 1903.

The Journal will be glad to give the Vice-Chancellor the instances it refers to if he cares to know them.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Feb. 1903.

190. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains that, notwithstanding Sir Montague Turner's boast at the Devonian Dinner that one of the benefits of the present Corporation was the continuous supply of filtered water, Ward No. 1 has been going without any water at all for three or four days. Not long ago there was not a drop of water to be had for a whole week, and in consequence Dr. R. G. Kar has instructed his solicitor to proceed against the Corporation. The case will be watched with keen interest by all sections of the people.

The Calcutta Municipality.

(h)—General.

BENGALIEE,
7th Feb. 1903.

191. The *Bengalee* cannot regard with complacency the apathetic attitude of the Government in regard to the revision of the Famine Insurance grant on the basis of later and more recent experience; and suggests that the grant be fixed at 400 lakhs or at any rate 300 lakhs, if the average of ten years be taken.

Since the standard grant of 150 lakhs was first laid down, a quarter of a century has passed, during which the intensity of famines has been more severe, their occurrence more frequent, and their financial and economic effect more disastrous.

192. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has rarely come across a more malicious paragraph than the one in the *Law Journal* of England which, in referring to the punishment of the 9th Lancers, says that the Government of India had been led to inflict the punishment in their desire to ingratiate the native population. While admitting that it was wrong to punish a whole regiment for the faults of a few, the journal justifies it on the ground that that is the procedure in India, where punitive police is quartered by the Government wherever there is a riot or apprehension of a riot, and innocent inhabitants are made to suffer along with the guilty ones.

The Law Journal and Lord Curzon.

If, says the *Patrika*, it was the object of Lord Curzon to gain the favour of the Indians, he would never have deprived the citizens of Calcutta of the privilege of managing their municipal affairs which they had enjoyed for 25 years, dismissed Mr. Pennell, and accepted the abdication of the Maharaja Holkar. The Viceroy's action in the case of the 9th Lancers has ended in disaster. If soldiers were unruly before, they will be more so now, which will mean the substitution of anarchy for responsible Government.

BENGALIEE,
11th Feb. 1903.

192. The *Bengalee* is disappointed at the decision of the Government of India declining to interfere with the action of the Bengal Government in the case of Babu Rash Behari Mondle, whose name has been removed from the list of Honorary Magistrates of the Madhepura Bench. It had hoped that Lord Curzon would rectify the blunder of the subordinate officials, as no reasons were assigned for their action, nor was the Babu allowed the opportunity of explanation or defence. He incurred the displeasure of the local authorities for refusing to give up what was thought to be a sufficient quantity of land for a library in honour of the Magistrate.

The case of Babu Rash Behari Mondle.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Feb. 1903

193. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reproduces a circular issued by the Deputy Comptroller of Postal Accounts, Bengal, which is causing great hardship to the clerks, and appeals to the Viceroy to enquire into the matter and afford that relief to these poor men which they sorely need.

Treatment of the clerks in the office of Comptroller of Postal Accounts.

Work fell into arrears on account of the Coronation holidays, and casual leave with pay has been stopped.

The usual hours of attendance have been extended from 4-30 to 5 P.M. and clerks have to do office work at home, thus working practically 11 or 12 hours daily.

194. Referring to the disposal of the money presented to the Government by Mr. Phipps, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is glad to find that agriculture is not to be forgotten, but it objects to the Pasteur Institute being the other favoured candidate, as the undertaking is solely in the interests of Europeans in this country.

Disposal of the money presented to Government by Mr. Phipps.

The journal urges the claims of the scheme of Mr. J. C. Bose for a Central Laboratory of Physics in Calcutta. It was put before the Secretary of State in 1896 in a memorial signed by some leading members of the English Royal Society, and nothing would at present be more gratifying to the Indian people than to see the Indian Government revive the scheme in such a way as to give adequate chances of higher research not only to distinguished Indians but also to such of Mr. Bose's compatriots as shall hereafter prove able and willing to follow in his steps.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Feb. 1903.

III.—LEGISLATION.

195. Returning to this subject, the *Bengalee* asks, as the object of the measure is to save the tea industry from ruin, at whose cost is it proposed to protect the industry?

The Tea Cess Bill.

Whence do they expect to find the money that will recoup the large outlay on tea already made by the tea-growers? It is clearly from India, from the poor and famished population. And this consideration would alone be sufficient to condemn the measure. Its object is to lead the majority of the people of a country to sacrifice their money to help a small minority.

Frankly, the journal finds it absolutely impossible to interpret the measure, except as an attempt on the part of the Government to help the large outlay of British capital sunk in tea to recoup itself somehow, and the only justification for it in the eyes of the Government must be the fact that the ruin of the Indian tea industry will partially check the flow of British capital to India in the way it has been flowing so long.

BENGALIEE,
9th Feb. 1903.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

196. The following comments by the *Indian Mirror* on the Maharaja of Cashmere's visit to Calcutta at the invitation of His Excellency the Viceroy are reproduced:—"His Highness will be the guest of the Viceroy. We confess we are beginning to dread these invitations. His Highness the Nizam was invited to be the Viceroy's guest in Calcutta; and he has lost the Berars. Why should His Highness of Cashmere be invited to be the Viceroy's guest? Sometime ago we said that the Maharaja returned home from the Delhi Darbar with exceeding disappointment because he was not restored his full governing powers, as he had somehow been led to expect. It were too much to believe that the restoration will be made in Calcutta. And there is a possibility of a further curtailment. A fresh Afghan trouble is in sight. Has the Maharaja's visit to Calcutta got anything to do with that?"

The Maharaja of Cashmere.

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INDIAN MIRROR,
9th Feb. 1903.

197. The *Bengalee* hears that there is strong dissatisfaction at Indore with the present constitution of the Council of Regency. The Resident is the *de facto* President of the Council, and he not only guides and advises from outside, but takes an active part in the work of administration.

If the Agent to the Governor-General is to be the appellate authority, it comes to the Government of India making itself directly responsible for the administration of the State and actively guiding it. Is this, asks the *Bengalee*, native rule?

BENGALIEE,
11th Feb. 1903.

198. Commenting on the abdication of the Holkar of Indore, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes as follows:—

Holkar Shahi.

"The Government first fastened a Resident upon Holkar with a Council. They next deprived him of most of his powers. This of course His Highness resented. He tried to recover his lost powers; but he failed. He then placed the alternatives before the Government, and, we should say, very properly too, either to restore to him his powers or to accept his resignation! The Government accepted the resignation. And this

AMRITA BAZAR
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11th Feb. 1903.

we presume is the so-called voluntary abdication of Holkar. It seems the Government makes light of the treaties it entered into with the Indian States, but the people regard them in another light. It is impossible to fathom the discontent which the action of the Government in this matter has created throughout the length and breadth of the country. Fancy that the whole of Indore went into mourning and there was lamentation amongst all his subjects when Holkar left his State. Even the Prince, the newly-created Maharaja, fell at the feet of his father and rent the skies with his cries."

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BENGALURU,
11th Feb. 1903.

199. The social and religious condition of Bengal, says the *Bengalee*, shows, if anything was wanted to prove so patent a fact, that the iron rule of the caste system, as at

The Hindu caste system. present constituted, is proving highly detrimental to the Hindu community. In the infancy of Hindu civilization the four great castes were doubtless considered equally important, as they were founded on the sound basis of division of labour, but progress has led those devoted to intellectual pursuits being considered superior to the ones confined to manual labour. Hinduism was at one time a proselytising religion and men rose from inferior to higher castes by reason of personal merit and high spiritual development. Barriers of iron now exist between castes, and qualifications count for nothing. This fact accounts for the increase in the Muhammadan population in Bengal, as well as the large percentage of Indian Christians in the Madras Presidency.

Their democratic English education has taught the Hindus to question the equity of the pretensions of the so-called higher castes, which arise out of an invidious distinction based not upon justice or expediency, but upon arbitrary rules. Unless the constitution is modified and made more elastic, the journal is afraid that the community will grow weaker yearly.

The requirements of the present age must be suited, or the bulwark of Hinduism will disappear.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 14th February 1903,

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.